

## TSU Weekly Wrap Up – October 4, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1<sup>st</sup> VP

The big news continues to be on the Labour front with both OECTA bargaining info and the CUPE work to rule and potential strike. And while that kept us busy enough, there was plenty else going on, too.

**Bargaining – OECTA** released updated information on the status of our central bargaining in a mid-week missive, with new dates taking us through to November 1. Check that out on your personal emails for details.

The anticipated **CUPE** work-to-rule job action did materialize this week and continued to raise a lot of questions. There were concerns in a few schools that we addressed immediately with the Board and will be following up on in some cases.

And of course, there is the possible **CUPE Strike** action come Monday, which is resulting in many more questions. The two primary messages teachers need to be aware of are these:

- All teachers are to report to work on Monday...if they want to be paid
- Do not perform any task that is normally CUPE work

Teachers should check the OECTA email of this afternoon for broader direction on this and how to handle any **picket lines**. There are also ongoing communications from the TSU office and from the Board. We have had ongoing contact with the Board in attempt to ensure that members are fully possible, requesting that they send out information that you need.

**TSU emails** – With the labour disruptions, it is all the more important that members **activate** their TSU email accounts to receive information directly from us. While the Board will attempt to maintain its IT services, many of them are run by CUPE members, which could possibly lead to interruptions and an inability to communicate through Board emails.

**Solidarity** – For those on twitter, you will have seen a picture showing a meeting of the four teacher affiliate leaders as they came together over their concerns for publicly funded education. While meetings between the various affiliates occur fairly regularly, we don't often see the whole group together. If you didn't see it, check out @tsuOECTA for that and other information.

**Daily Occasional Teachers** – In the event of a strike, it is the Board's intent not to assign daily OTs for permanent teacher absences, as there are no students to be covered. This includes any OTs who have already confirmed a job for Monday, October 7. TSU is reviewing this situation with OECTA to see whether any action by the Unit is warranted.

**Retirees** – On Tuesday we had the pleasure of welcoming back some of our retirees for the annual TSU Retirees Breakfast. While we do this to honour them, it was very heartening to have so many of them approach us with offers to help if they could, during this year. Most, if not all of them, know how difficult labour disputes and disruptions can be, and how much everyone who values publicly funded education needs to pull together. Many of them also took away the lawn signs that we have in the office, to share with their family and friends. A big thank you to all and we appreciate your ongoing support.

**Grievance** – Our OECTA Staff Liaison Officer, John Pecsénye visited the office on Wednesday to review our outstanding grievances, and discuss Arbitration dates and issues. OECTA will be moving to a new grievance system at some point in the new year and we want to have our current docket as streamlined as possible before then to ease the transition.

**Staffing** – The SSSAC (Secondary School Staffing Allocation Committee) held its first meeting of the year this week. The number of outstanding **Supernumeraries** is now down to 20 as permanent positions open up for a variety of reasons. We will likely see further reductions as more retirements come in. In the meantime, there are no IOPs, so far, as the required qualifications have been held by Supernum's to fill all positions.

**World Teacher's Day** – October 5 is World Teacher's Day! You should have seen the Teachers Make A World Of Difference ads we had in the Metro papers and on toronto.com. You certainly do, and thank you for that.